

HB 482 -- Unclaimed Cremated Remains of Veterans

Sponsor: Davis

This bill changes the laws regarding the disposal of unclaimed veterans' remains. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Defines "veteran" as a person honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States including, but not limited to, the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Regular Scouts, and the Special Philippine Scouts;
- (2) Revises the definition of "veterans' service organization" as an organization that is federally chartered by the United States Congress, a veterans' service organization recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or that qualifies as a Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit tax organization under the Internal Revenue Code and is organized for the verification and burial of veterans and dependants;
- (3) Requires that a funeral establishment or coroner in possession of cremated remains to release required information to the Department of Veterans Affairs or a veterans' service organization to obtain verification for a veteran or a dependant's eligibility for burial in a state or national veterans' cemetery; and
- (4) Specifies that a funeral establishment or a coroner who releases the required information is not liable for simple negligence in the disposition of the cremated remains of a veteran to a veterans' service organization for interment under specified conditions. The bill reduces the time period, from within four months to within one month of the date of the first publication of the required notice, that the person entitled to the unclaimed remains must claim the remains or the remains may be given to a veterans' service organization for interment.